

REMARKS

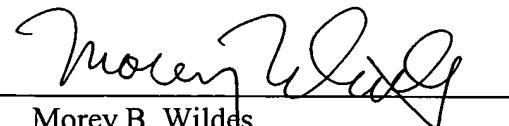
Claim 1 is pending in this application. In this Response, claim 1 has been amended, and new claims 2-76 have been added.

In the April 26, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as claim 1 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/241,971, a provisional double patenting rejection, since the conflicting claim had not yet been patented (U.S. Patent Application No. 10/241,971 has since issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,766,946). On May 12, 2004, the undersigned attorney for the Applicant spoke to the Examiner regarding the fact that the Office Action in this case issued so quickly (less than six months after filing of the application), before Applicant's attorney had a chance to file a preliminary amendment with revised claims. The Examiner said that he would take this into account in issuing further Office Actions, and Applicant's attorney thanks the Examiner for his consideration in this regard.

In response, Applicant has herein amended claim 1 and has added new claims 2-76 in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Amended claim 1 and new claims 2-76 overcome the Examiner's rejection, as they no longer claim the same invention as that of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/241,971, now U.S. Patent No. 6,766,946.

A favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,
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